

ESA Newsletter: February 2014

ESA Enrollment Dates (New Applicants ONLY)

ESA application process is off to a great start and parents who are applying early are receiving their Award Letters by email or mail within 2-7 work days if their application is complete and all documents (if applicable) are submitted correctly.

ESA staff will continue to accept applications through **April 1, 2014 3pm**. Please visit our website www.azed.gov/esa for ESA qualifications and applications.

By applying early, it will allow parents sufficient time to receive an Award Letter with the yearly award amount and quarterly disbursements, giving you ample time to research and weigh out their options for educating your child.

Please keep in mind scholarships are capped at 5,480. *(This a number not an amount)*

Any application that is incomplete, not legible, or documents are missing or expired will be sent back to you for resubmission and will start the process again (no application "spots" will be held).

ESA Renewal Parents ONLY

On April 1-10, 2014 you will start to receive your contract and instructions via email. This contract must be returned to us via mail on or before May 1, 2014 (*not post marked*) if you are going to renew your ESA.

Parents of a child with special needs will receive their contracts between those dates **ONLY** if their child's MET is current (not expiring on or before July 15, 2014).

ESA staff has been reaching out to parents since October who are eligible for renewal regarding expiring METs. Please keep in mind that ESA staff will send reminder emails to parents at least three times if your child's MET is expiring.

Please keep in mind that the renewal contract is contingent upon the submission and approval of your Quarter 4 expense report and a current MET or Reevaluation Waiver (*the MET or MET waiver is for children with special needs only*).

MET Reevaluation Waiver

For existing ESA parents that need to renew their child's MET, we now have a [MET Reevaluation Waiver](#) that we are hoping will make the renewal process easier for you.

By having the MET Reevaluation Waiver signed, you are basically opting out of the entire MET process. If the public school agrees to sign the waiver, it will replace your child's MET for 3years for the ESA program. You have the right to an MET if you choose.

Note: If the school refuses to sign the MET reevaluation waiver and require a complete MET process for reevaluation, we will not interfere with their decision.

ESA Advisory Board

Please mark your calendar if you are a member. Our next Advisory Board meeting will be on Wednesday, February 19, 2014. We look forward to seeing our members!

ESA Upcoming Meetings

We have an ESA meeting scheduled for the West Valley Area on Thursday, February 20, 2014 from 10am-12pm. We invite all **new** ESA parents to attend this meeting if they are interested in learning more about the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) Program.

We will go over the application process and answer any questions you may have in regards to the application process.

Meeting will be held at:

Aurora Day School
8155 W. Thunderbird Rd.
Peoria, AZ 85381

Please contact Aurora Day School at 623-209-1000 if you have any questions regarding directions. Any questions regarding ESA, please contact us at 602-364-1969 or by email at esa@azed.gov